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Repeat felon gets 21 years for having guns

A federal judge uses a "career criminal" law to give a stiff sentence to a 45-year-old Portland man

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Kelly David Ankeny Sr.'s long rap sheet began in 1977, when as a teenager he was convicted of second-degree robbery.

Since then, the 45-year-old Portland man has been convicted of at least 11 felonies, including drug and gun crimes.

On Thursday, U.S. District Judge Michael Mosman concluded Ankeny -- who recently pleaded guilty to multiple counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm -- was an armed career criminal and a career offender and sentenced him to 21 years and eight months in prison.

The sentence is unusually long even for a defendant who is designated an armed career criminal, which carries a minimum mandatory sentence of 15 years.

The Armed Career Criminal Act applies to people with three or more violent felony or drug trafficking convictions.

The case, which stems from an ATF and Portland police investigation, is part of the U.S. attorney's office's Project Safe Neighborhoods, a national push to pursue repeat gun offenders who typically received little or no prison time if convicted in state court.

Federal prosecutors recommended that Ankeny be sentenced to 25 years -- one of the highest recommendations the U.S. Attorney's Office has made in a gun case.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Edmonds told Mosman that Ankeny has a history of violating his probation and parole in addition to committing crimes.

"Within days if not hours of his release from the penitentiary, he was immersing himself in methamphetamine and firearms," said Edmonds, who called the combination a "powder keg for the community."

Stephen Sady, an assistant federal defender and Ankeny's lawyer, told Mosman that his client "feels terrible" about what he has done to his family. He said Ankeny has a substance abuse problem and wants to enroll in a treatment program in prison.

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